



## An Important Message From Congressman Dan Lipinski

Dear Friends,

It is an honor and pleasure to serve you as your new Congressman.

I am working hard to pass laws that will help you and your families secure a better future with good jobs, quality education, affordable health care, and retirement security.

As your Congressman, the most important thing I do is listen to your concerns and work to represent your interests in Washington. I have enjoyed meeting many of you during town hall meetings and my travels throughout the district, as well as hearing from those of you who have called or written to share your views.

In this newsletter, I want to share with you some of the successes of the year so far, and to let you know of upcoming events I am hosting in the district, including a Seniors' Fair, an Education Summit, a College Financial Aid Seminar, and the September Town Hall Meeting.

I also want to announce the opening of our newest constituent service center located at 5205 West 95th Street in Oak Lawn. My staff is available in each service center located in Chicago, Oak Lawn, and La Grange to assist constituents of the Third Congressional District with any questions or problems you might encounter with Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, Veterans' Benefits, or any other federal program, as well as questions about public policy or legislation. We can also assist you with planning trips to Washington, D.C.

For additional information and updates, and to sign up to receive my e-newsletter please visit my website at [www.house.gov/lipinski](http://www.house.gov/lipinski).

Again, it is an honor to serve you. Please do not hesitate to contact me if there is any way I can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

*Dan Lipinski*

Dan Lipinski  
Member of Congress

## Helping Families

### Making Healthcare More Affordable

While families struggle with ever-increasing health care costs, every day thousands of Americans receive medical care at hospitals without knowing how much they will be charged. That is why Congressman Lipinski introduced H.R. 3139, the Hospital Price Reporting and Disclosure Act, which would require every hospital to provide consumers with the prices they charge for the most commonly used procedures and medications. The prices for every hospital would be posted on one internet site, allowing consumers to compare hospitals. Congressman Lipinski has gained bipartisan support for this legislation in the House, working closely with Rep. Bob Inglis (SC), and has won the support of Senators Dick Durbin (IL) and Jim DeMint (SC) who are introducing this bill in the Senate.

More than 45 million Americans do not have health insurance and this number continues to increase. This is a problem not only for the uninsured but for all Americans, because the costs to care for the uninsured are added to everyone's health care bills. To help change this, Congressman Lipinski is the chief Democratic sponsor of H.R. 765, The Fair Care for the Uninsured Act of 2005. This bill would provide those who are not offered health insurance through their employer a refundable tax credit – \$1000 for an individual, up to \$3000 for a family of four – for the purchase of insurance. This bipartisan, commonsense legislation would make health care more affordable for the uninsured and for all American families.



Cong. Bob Inglis (SC), Cong. Lipinski, and Sen. Jim DeMint (SC) announce support of Hospital Price Bill.

### Improving Our Schools

As a former educator, Congressman Lipinski understands that every child's future depends on receiving a quality education. In the coming weeks, the congressman will be hosting two education events in the Third Congressional District.

- **Education Summit – Lyons Township High School, September 24, 10:00 a.m.** Congressman Lipinski will discuss issues related to K-12 education with principals, administrators, and parents. The Congressman is working for revisions to the No Child Left Behind Act and for increased federal funding to local schools.

- **College Financial Aid Seminar – Reavis High School, October 15, 10:00 a.m.** Representative Lipinski will discuss reauthorization of the Higher Education Act and will bring experts to help parents and students navigate financial aid applications.



Congressman Dan Lipinski speaks to a classroom at Dore Elementary school regarding Congress.

## Protecting American Jobs

### Working for Small Businesses

Small businesses create three-quarters of the new jobs in America and they are especially vital to the economic health of communities in the Third District. Congressman Lipinski serves on the House Small Business Committee – and as the top Democrat on the Subcommittee on Workforce, Empowerment, and Government Programs – in order to help small businesses remain strong.



Congressman Lipinski listens to testimony on a Small Business Subcommittee.

On Monday, September 19, Congressman Lipinski will bring the House Small Business Committee, including Chairman Don Manzullo (IL), to the 3rd District to hold a hearing about protecting and expanding American manufacturing jobs. The Committee will hear testimony from local manufacturers regarding steps that Congress can take to maintain a strong American manufacturing base and keep good jobs in the district.

### Opposing Unfair Trade Agreements

Despite Congressman Lipinski's strong opposition, the House passed the Central American Free Trade Agreement, CAFTA, on July 28. America needs fair trade laws that will increase the ability of our workers to compete in the global market. CAFTA fails to protect American workers and will continue to increase our massive trade deficit. Since passage of the North American Free Trade Agreement, the U.S. has lost over 2 million manufacturing jobs to Mexico, including tens of thousands in Illinois, and the U.S. trade balance with Mexico has gone from a \$1 billion surplus to a \$45 billion deficit. It is reckless to further expose our labor to unfair competition from Central America when we continue to suffer from NAFTA. Congressman Lipinski continues to fight for American workers and against damaging trade policies.



Congressman Dan Lipinski tours Northstar Aerospace in Bedford Park, Illinois that makes the transmissions for the Apache Helicopter used in the war in Iraq.

### Contact Congressman Dan Lipinski

Dan has 3 Offices to serve you.

#### Chicago Office

6245 South Archer Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60638  
312-886-0481

#### LaGrange Office

19 West Hillgrove Avenue  
LaGrange, IL 60525  
708-352-0524

#### Oak Lawn Office

5205 West 95th Street  
Oak Lawn, IL 60453  
708-424-0853

You can also contact Dan Lipinski at [www.house.gov/lipinski](http://www.house.gov/lipinski)

## Improving Transportation

### Securing \$126 Million for Local Transportation Projects

Congressman Dan Lipinski obtained \$126 million for communities in the Third District and the Chicagoland area on July 29, when Congress passed the Transportation Equity Act, a five-year reauthorization of federal highway and transit funding. Illinois will receive \$1.24 billion annually in new transportation funding, a 33% increase over what the state currently receives. The funding will help ease traffic congestion, fix roads, build bridges, construct railroad underpasses, make pedestrians safer, improve public transit, beautify local neighborhoods, and build bike paths.

Congressman Lipinski obtained \$26 million for projects that were requested by local communities in the Third District, including the following:

- Upgrading streets and improving traffic and pedestrian safety signals in **Oak Lawn** - \$4,112,000
- Streetscaping project on Harlem Avenue (71st Street to I-80) in **Cook County** - \$3,280,000
- Pedestrian walkways and Streetscaping projects in **Western Springs** - \$3,553,600
- Construction of a parking facility in **LaGrange** - \$3,232,000
- Construction of a parking facility and pedestrian walkways at 94th and South Oak Park Avenue in **Oak Lawn** - \$192,000
- Construction of bike/pedestrian paths in **Chicago** - \$2,480,000
- Upgrading streets in **Stickney Township** - \$2,206,400
- Construction of a bike path, parking facility, and related transportation enhancement projects in **North Riverside** - \$1,920,000
- Upgrading roads around the **Brookfield Zoo** - \$1,200,000
- Construction of the Leon Cook overpass in **Hodgkins** - \$768,000
- Upgrading of roads in **Summit** - \$768,000
- Construction of a bike/pedestrian path and related facilities in Spring Rock Park in **Western Springs** - \$576,000
- Street improvements in **Merrionette Park** - \$480,000
- Street improvements in **Westchester** - \$224,000
- Streetscaping on Ridgeland Avenue, Oak Park Avenue, and 26th Street in **Berwyn** - \$768,000



Congressman Lipinski discusses plans for railroad underpass at 47th and East Avenue with LaGrange Village President Liz Asperger.

In addition, Congressman Lipinski secured \$100 million for the Chicago Region Environmental and Transportation Efficiency (CREATE) program to overhaul Chicago's antiquated rail system. CREATE includes the construction of underpasses at a number of railway crossings in the Third District and changes to rail traffic that will speed Metra service.

Also included in the bill is the authorization of funding for preliminary engineering and analysis for the planned extension of the CTA Orange line to Ford City Mall.

These projects will not only upgrade our transportation system and help the environment, but will also bring thousands of jobs and stimulate economic growth in our communities.

## Serving Seniors and Veterans

### Fighting for a Better Medicare Drug Benefit

In November 2003, Congress authorized a Medicare prescription drug benefit which needs to be significantly improved. One problem is that the federal government is prohibited from negotiating discount prices with drug companies. To change this, Congressman Lipinski is working to pass H.R. 376, the Medicare's Equitable Drugs for Seniors Act. H.R. 376 would direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) to bargain with drug companies to obtain discounts of up to 50% on drugs for Medicare recipients. The bill's passage would make purchases of prescription drugs through Medicare less costly and provide a better benefit for seniors. Seniors can begin signing up for the Medicare prescription drug benefit on November 15 of this year. Congressman Lipinski's staff is available to help Medicare recipients who would like assistance with paperwork.

### Helping Seniors: Seniors' Fair, November 5th

The Congressman is sponsoring a Seniors' Fair on Saturday, November 5 from 10:00 a.m. until Noon at Ridge Park, in order to provide a wide array of helpful information to seniors, including help in signing up for the Medicare prescription drug program. Ridge Park is located at 9625 S. Longwood Avenue, Chicago.

### Protecting Veterans

On June 1, Congressman Lipinski held a Veterans' Town Hall Meeting to hear from veterans and to discuss his legislative priorities, including ending the disabled veteran's tax, making sure all veterans have continued and improved access to VA healthcare facilities, and insuring that veterans and their families are given access to the support services to which they are entitled.

On July 27, the House of Representatives passed an **emergency \$1.5 billion** appropriation to make up for the current VA healthcare shortfall. Congressman Lipinski fought for this essential funding and is also cosponsoring the following legislation to assist veterans:



Congressman Lipinski honors American soldiers on Memorial Day at a ceremony at Ridge Park.

★ **HR 515. Assured Funding For Veterans Healthcare:** Provides full funding to the Veterans Health Administration and guarantees that the funding go directly to support patients.

★ **HR 2131. The New GI Bill of Rights for the 21st Century:** Includes increases in funding for veterans' medical care, provides greater access to mental health facilities, expands reservists' eligibility under TRICARE, and expands educational opportunities, job training, and employment assistance.

★ **HR 602. Keep Our Promise to Military Retirees:** Extends the Federal Employees Health Benefit program to eligible service members and works to reimburse qualifying service members on prescription drugs.

## Congressman Dan Lipinski... addressing your concerns.



### A Legislative Update from Congressman Dan Lipinski

#### Events Hosted by Congressman Lipinski

**Town Hall Meeting**  
Saturday ~ September 10th ~ 10:00 a.m.  
Berwyn Public Safety Building  
6401 W. 31st Street, Berwyn  
(Staff available at 9:00 a.m.)

**House Small Business  
Committee Hearing**  
Monday ~ September 19th  
10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.  
Archer American Wire Co.  
7300 S. Narragansett  
Bedford Park, Illinois

**Education Summit**  
Saturday ~ September 24th ~ 10:00 a.m.  
Lyons Township High School  
100 S. Brainard, La Grange, Illinois  
(North Campus)

**College Financial  
Aid Seminar**  
Saturday ~ October 15th ~ 10:00 a.m.  
Reavis High School  
6034 West 77th Street, Burbank

**Seniors' Fair**  
Friday ~ November 18th  
10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.  
Mount Greenwood Park  
3724 West 111th Street

#### Congressman Dan Lipinski

3<sup>RD</sup> Congressional District  
19 West Hillgrove Avenue  
LaGrange, IL 60525  
[www.house.gov/lipinski](http://www.house.gov/lipinski)

Public Document  
Official Business

*Daniel Lipinski*

M.C.  
Presorted Standard

ECRWSS  
Residential Customer